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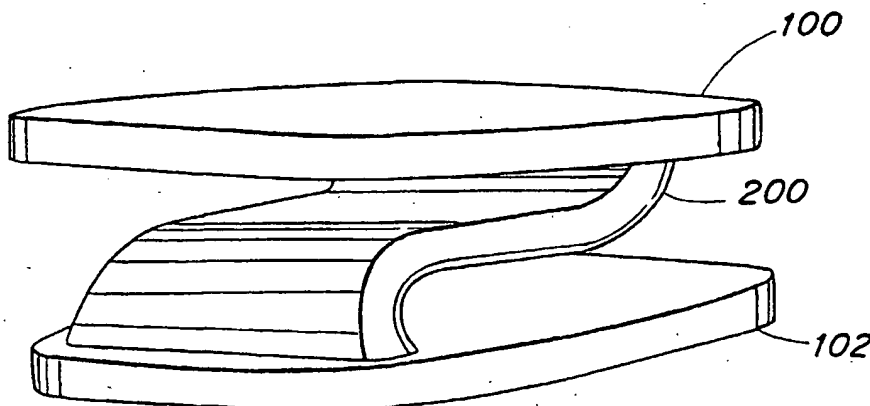
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(54) Title: ORTHOPEDIC IMPLANT AND METHOD OF MAKING METAL ARTICLES



(57) Abstract: The present application is directed to an orthopedic implant. More specifically, the orthopedic implant is suitable for arthroplasty procedures where optimized multifunctional behavior of the implant is desired. In some embodiments the implant is suitable for the replacement of a spinal disc. In one embodiment, the present application is directed to an orthopedic implant including a first plate a second plate and a flexible support. The flexible support may have a single connection to the first plate and a single connection to the second plate and may vary in cross section. The first plate, the second plate and the flexible support may be unitarily formed. This application is also directed to methods of producing metal articles having microstructure for improved mechanical properties. Such methods may be suitable for the production of medical devices. In one embodiment, the method includes directing a stream including a particulate material in a pattern corresponding to at least a portion of a structure of an orthopedic implant and fusing at least a portion of the particulate material with a laser.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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